MARVEL
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PARENTAL ADVISORY
VENOM WAR
CARNAGE
GRØNBEKK
PÉREZ
ARCINIEGA

IN MEMORIAM

DON PERLIN
1929 - 2024

Marvel pauses to remember longtime penciler, inker and former managing art director Don Perlin, who co-created Moon Knight and was a mainstay on series such as *Defenders*, *Ghost Rider* and *Werewolf by Night*. Born Aug. 27, 1929, in New York City, Perlin studied under Burne Hogarth and attended the Cartoonists and Illustrators School. He began professional work in the late 1940s and would work with Will Eisner on *The Spirit* comics before being drafted in 1953. Perlin wouldn't come back to comics full-time until the 1970s, when Marvel Editor in Chief Roy Thomas recruited him to draw *Werewolf by Night*. In that series, he co-created the vigilante hero Moon Knight with writer Doug Moench. He also co-created Tigra with Tony Isabella and was the longest-running penciler on the *Defenders* series. In the 1980s, he became Marvel's managing art director, working under John Romita Sr. and, among other things, helping oversee the up-and-coming artists in the Romita's Raiders program. He moved on in the 1990s to Acclaim and Valiant comics, where he co-created some of their most important characters. Perlin was well-liked in the comics field and respected for decades of great work. Our hearts go out to his family and all those who knew and loved him.

SUBJECT #32 HAS STOPPED SCREAMING--
--BUT HIS BODY STILL WRITHES IN PAIN WITH EACH DROP.
CORROSIVE, THE CHEMICAL BURROWS THROUGH THE SKIN AND SKULL, CONTINUING INTO HIS MIND.
AGAIN.
NEXT TO HIM, CARNAGE VAGUELY WONDERS IF THE MAN **FEELS IT** AS THE SUBSTANCE BURNS THROUGH HIS BRAIN MATTER.
BECAUSE **HE** FEELS IT.

DROP.

HHHHGGG.

FOR A SPLIT SECOND--

--THE MOVEMENT IS ECHOED IN THE DEAD ON THE GROUND.

HE THOUGHT HE WAS IMAGINING IT AT FIRST--

--BUT A SHIVER RUNS THROUGH THEM--

--JUST AS IT RUNS THROUGH CARNAGE.

AGAIN.

IT'S ALMOST EMPTY.

WHAT MORE CAN YOU HOPE TO LEARN?

CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?

I FEEL IT, YOU FEEL IT, BLAH-BLAH-BLAH.

I'M BORED, CARNAGE. I NEVER KNEW MURDER COULD BE THIS *TEDIOUS*.

THE CHEMICAL COMES FROM A WEAPON--

--THE SAME KIND THAT ALMOST KILLED HIM.

VENOM WAR

CARNAGE #1

When the alien symbiote known as **VENOM** left its spawn behind in the jail cell of murderer **CLETUS KASADY**, it had no idea it was giving birth to the sadistic, super-powered mass murderer known as **CARNAGE**. The alien learned the joy of slaughter from Cletus, and for many years, they preyed on innocents together. Eventually, Cletus and the symbiote were torn from one another...but that did not stop the desire for blood in either of them. The symbiote's desire for deadly chaos only grew. It enacted a plan designed to attain the power of a god. The plan did not succeed the way that the symbiote had hoped.

Deciding that it was worse off without Cletus on its side, the alien regrew itself a new Cletus from its own body. With their relationship reignited, the pair set about on a new bloody path until a weapon created by the company **ALCHEMAX** put a near-fatal stop to them. Learning about the company's **K-PROGRAM** experimenting with symbiote-based technology, Carnage becomes obsessed.

Meanwhile, **EDDIE BROCK** and **DYLAN BROCK**, two hosts of Carnage's progenitor, Venom, are on a collision course for war. Both have seen prophetic visions of the other leading the world to doom if given control of the Venom symbiote, leading them to become fixated on gaining control for themselves. So much so that they seem blind to threats coming from elsewhere, be they Carnage, Alchemax...or **MERIDIUS**, an evil version of Eddie Brock from another timeline who has been lurking in ours and scheming...

CARNAGE

CLETUS KASADY

TORUNN GRØNBEKK
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SINCE HE STARTED HIS EXPERIMENTS, CARNAGE HAS HAD TWO LEADING THEORIES.
AGAIN, CLETUS.
ONE: DEATH IS BUT A SIDE EFFECT OF THIS SUBSTANCE. ITS TRUE PURPOSE LIES SOMEWHERE ELSE.
FINE. BUT THIS IS THE LAST ONE.
I'VE SAVED THIS ONE. I HAD HOPED WE COULD HAVE GIVEN HIM A BETTER DEATH.
HHRMFMM! HNGGGE!
TWO: IT WAS MADE BY SOMEONE FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN ALCHEMAX.
HE'S A FIGHTER.
SUCH A WASTE TO DRIP HIM TO DEATH.
BUT CARNAGE DOES NOT KNOW HOW CLOSE HE HAS COME TO THE TRUTH.
NOR HOW FAR SOMEONE IS WILLING TO GO TO KEEP HIM FROM LEARNING MORE.

IS HE DEAD?
WHO CARES?
IF YOU CAN'T TELL, THERE'S LITTLE JOY TO BE FOUND IN MAKING SURE.
THIS IS THE LAST ONE, OKAY? WE NEED TO GET OUT THERE. WE NEED TO FIGHT BACK.
WE SHALL SEE.
YOU KNOW, I THINK YOU'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED.
NOT LONG AGO, YOU THOUGHT YOURSELF A GOD, AND NOW YOU'RE HIDING...
I AM NOT SCARED...I AM CAUTIOUS. SOMEONE HAS DEVELOPED THIS...THING RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT IS...HOW BAD IT IS. WHY IT IS. WHY THEY ARE HUNTING US.
I THINK YOU LIKE IT...THE FEELING WHEN WE'RE CONNECTED TO THEM--

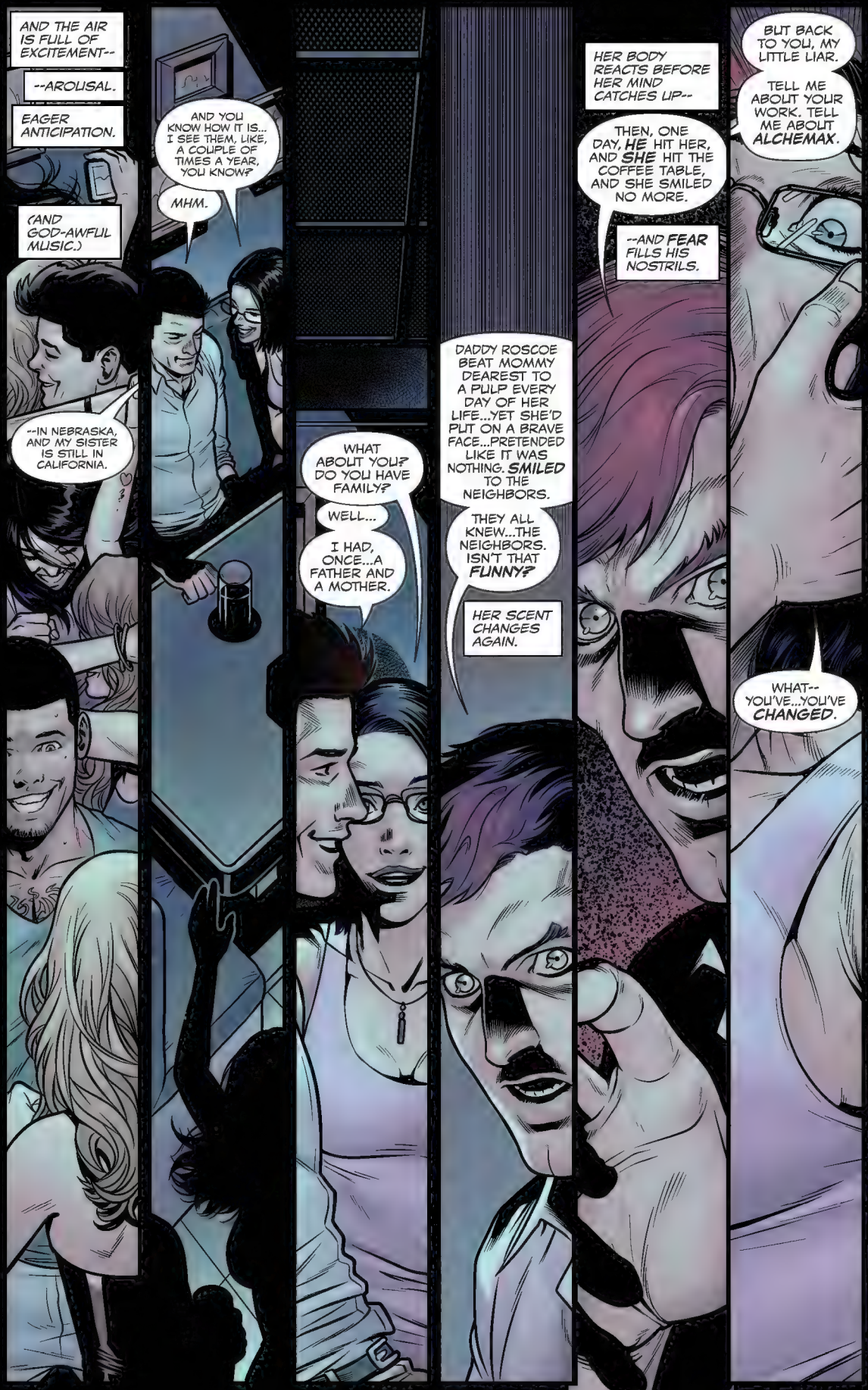
THAT'S ENOUGH!
LISTEN. SOMETHING IS--

TARGET ACQUIRED.
...

THE FIRE CANNOT KILL THE SYMBIOTE.
IT ONLY FUELS HIS FURY.

GIFTS
THEY ARE WATCHING, I CAN FEEL IT.
I WILL RIP THEM APART--
I WILL--
WHERE ARE THEY?!
WHO DID THIS?!
YOU FINALLY FOUND YOUR FIGHT, MY LOVE.
I'M PROUD OF YOU.
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, SWEETHEART. I'LL FIND THEM.
I'LL KILL THEM.

TWO DAYS LATER.
WHEN SOMEONE ASKS WHAT SALLY CHRISTIANSEN DOES FOR WORK--
--SHE LIES.
SUNK COST
THE TRUTH INVITES QUESTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS SHE WOULD RATHER AVOID.
I'D LIKE A MAI TAI ME UP.
EASY ON THE RUM, PLEASE.
AND I'LL HAVE A SHOT IN THE DARK.
COMING RIGHT UP!
(AND SHE IS NOT HERE FOR THE CONVERSATION.)
SO...YOUR PROFILE DIDN'T SAY... WHAT DO YOU DO FOR WORK, SALLY?
OH...RIGHT. I'M AN ACCOUNTANT. BORING REALLY...
HIS SYMBIOTE NOSE PICKS UP THE SUBTLE VARIATIONS IN HER SCENT AS SHE LIES.
DO YOU THINK ONE OF THESE DRINKS IS A BLOODY MARY?
HARD TO SAY.
DID YOU KNOW THE BLOODY MARY USED TO BE CALLED A BUCKET OF BLOOD?
A BUCKET OF BLOOD? DISGUSTING.
HERE YOU ARE.
HE KNOWS SHE IS LYING--
--JUST AS HE CAN SMELL HER INTEREST.
WELL... CHEERS!
CHEERS... SALLY.
HER EXCITEMENT.


AND THE AIR IS FULL OF EXCITEMENT--
--AROUSAL.
EAGER ANTICIPATION.
(AND GOD-AWFUL MUSIC.)
--IN NEBRASKA, AND MY SISTER IS STILL IN CALIFORNIA.
AND YOU KNOW HOW IT IS... I SEE THEM, LIKE, A COUPLE OF TIMES A YEAR, YOU KNOW?
MHM.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU HAVE FAMILY?
WELL...
I HAD, ONCE...A FATHER AND A MOTHER.
DADDY ROSCOE BEAT MOMMY DEAREST TO A PULP EVERY DAY OF HER LIFE...YET SHE'D PUT ON A BRAVE FACE...PRETENDED LIKE IT WAS NOTHING. SMILED TO THE NEIGHBORS.
THEY ALL KNEW...THE NEIGHBORS. ISN'T THAT FUNNY?
HER SCENT CHANGES AGAIN.
HER BODY REACTS BEFORE HER MIND CATCHES UP--
THEN, ONE DAY, HE HIT HER, AND SHE HIT THE COFFEE TABLE, AND SHE SMILED NO MORE.
--AND FEAR FILLS HIS NOSTRILS.
BUT BACK TO YOU, MY LITTLE LIAR.
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR WORK. TELL ME ABOUT ALCHEMAX.
WHAT-- YOU'VE...YOU'VE CHANGED.

SHE TRIES TO CALL FOR HELP--

NO...THE WORLD MIGHT CHANGE, BUT I REMAIN WHAT I ALWAYS WAS, MY DEAR.

NOW...TELL ME ABOUT THE **K-PROJECT**.

I...I--

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL TAKE A LOOK MYSELF.

BUT INSTEAD, HE FORCES HER THOUGHTS TO **WORK**.

THREE YEARS AGO. SHE WAS STUCK. SHE WAS SCARED SHE WOULD LOSE HER JOB. MONTHS OF RESEARCH HAD LED NOWHERE.

THE SYMBIOTE STRAINS REMAINED CANNIBALISTIC--

--VIOLENT.

HOWEVER SHE COMBINED THEM, THEY STILL TORE EACH OTHER TO PIECES.

THEN **HE** SHOWED UP.

FINN TAYLOR, FROM SOME ALCHEMAX SUBSIDIARY.

IT CAN'T BE THAT EASY...

TRY IT. IF IT DOESN'T WORK...NO HARM DONE.

HE BROUGHT A **SUBSTANCE**.

WHAT IS IT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

SHE DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT WAS, BUT SHE TOOK IT. USED IT.

IT WAS THE BREAKTHROUGH SHE NEEDED.

IT MADE THE STRAINS PLYABLE. WORKABLE.

DESTRUCTIBLE.

IN RETURN, SHE GAVE HIM ACCESS--

--ACCESS TO **EVERYTHING**.

UH...

SALLY? ...**SALLY?**

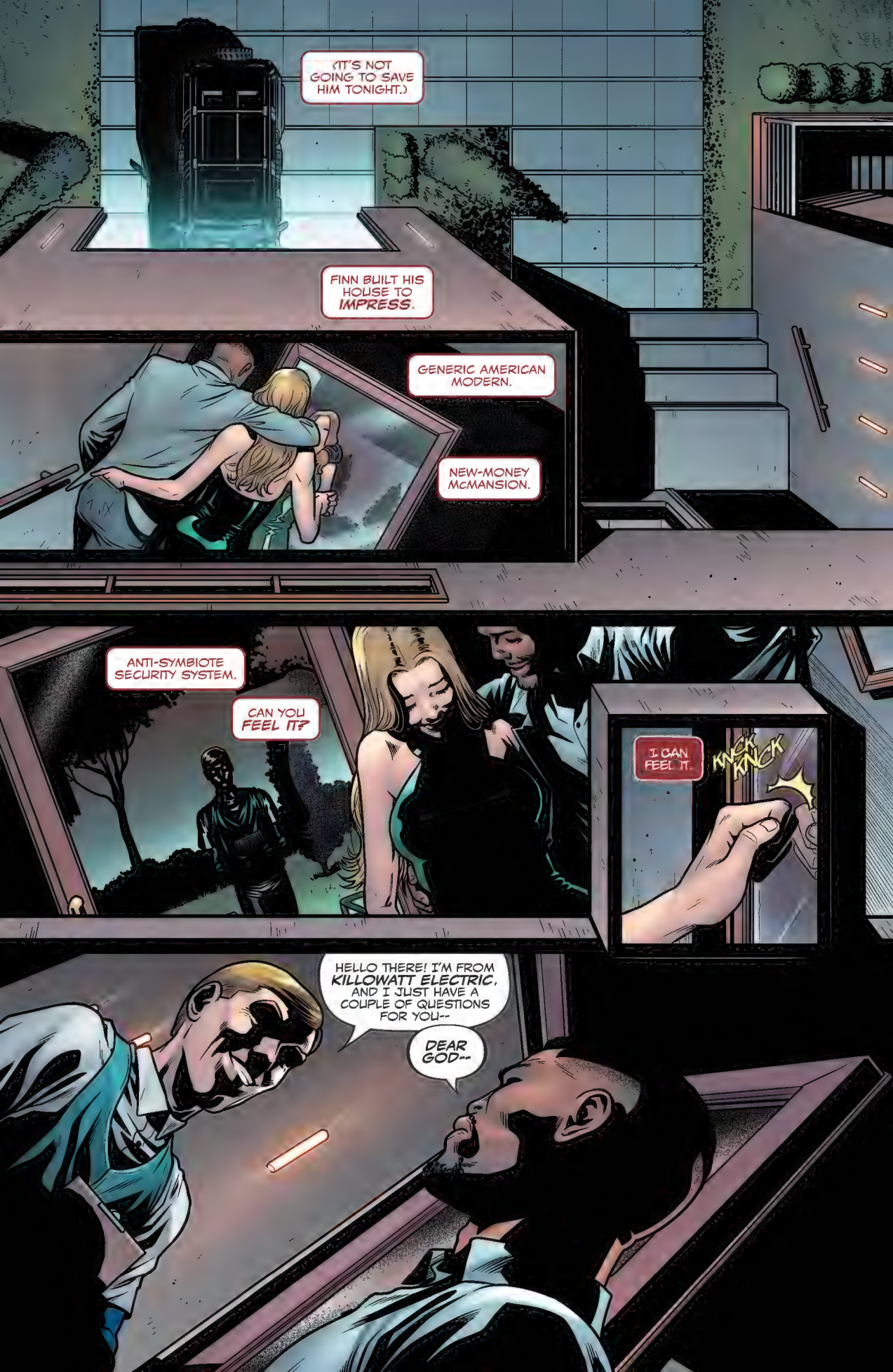
YOU BROKE HER.

EVIDENTLY.

UH...

NOT TO WORRY. WE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR.

Avery Penny Residential Center
ACCORDING TO HIS DATING PROFILE--
--FINN TAYLOR "WORKS HARD AND PLAYS HARD."
FINN DRINKS OLD BOURBON--
--AND PAYS EXTRA TO GET CLEAR ICE CUBES.
FINN WATCHED AMERICAN PSYCHO AND THOUGHT--
--COOL.
FINN PREFERS BLONDS--
...SENIOR ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT, BUT I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A THOUGHT LEADER IN THE LATE-LIFE-STAGE SERVICE INDUSTRIES.
WOW! THAT'S SO INTERESTING.
--LYING BLONDS.


(IT'S NOT GOING TO SAVE HIM TONIGHT.)
FINN BUILT HIS HOUSE TO IMPRESS.
GENERIC AMERICAN MODERN.
NEW-MONEY McMANSION.
ANTI-SYMBIOTE SECURITY SYSTEM.
CAN YOU FEEL IT?
I CAN FEEL IT.
KNOCK KNOCK
HELLO THERE! I'M FROM KILLOWATT ELECTRIC, AND I JUST HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU--
DEAR GOD--

--DOES THIS EVER WORK?
YOU'RE A GROWN MAN WALKING DOOR-TO-DOOR ON A FRIDAY NIGHT... BEGGING.
AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED?
DON'T YOU HAVE A SHRED OF DIGNITY?
COME ON, SIR. NO REASON TO OFFEND MY MANHOOD.
OH, I BEG TO DIFFER.
I MEAN, LOOK AT YOU!
YES, FINN...
LOOK AT ME.
OH--
$%!£@.
SLAM!

NO NO NO NO--
WHAT--IS EVERYTHING OKAY, FINN?
NOT SO FAST, FINN!
THE SYMBIOTE FEELS THE WEAPON BEFORE HE SEES IT.
LIKE HE CAN TASTE THE CHEMICAL IN THE AIR.
AS I SAID--
--I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
IT ONLY PROVES--

--HE IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
DO YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF YOU?
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
THE FAMILIAR PAIN RUNS THROUGH HIM--
SYMBIOTE SCUM!!!
--BUT CARNAGE IS PREPARED FOR IT NOW.

GET UP!
I AM GOING TO ENJOY THIS.
WHAT IS THAT THING?!
DON'T WORRY. I DO THIS EVERY DAY.
THERE'S A SAFE ROOM IN THE BEDROOM--

THE CODE IS 1492.
OPEN IT--
--AND WAIT FOR ME. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE. OKAY?
ALEXIS?
OR WAS IT...AUDREY? ASHLEY?
GOOD GOD...
IT'S FINN TAYLOR. I HAVE A CODE--

HRKKK!
FINN TAYLOR CAN FEEL IT--
--AS THE SYMBIOTE CONSUMES HIS BLOOD--
--HIS BONES.
HIS NERVES AND MUSCLES.
HE CAN FEEL THE MOMENT HIS LUNGS CRUMPLE--
--AND HIS HEART STOPS BEATING.
FINN? ARE YOU THERE? CONFIRM CODE, PLEASE!
YET HE STILL LIVES.

THEN HE HEARS THE VOICE--
WHAT ABOUT NOW?
ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME NOW?
--IT SPEAKS IN HIS MIND.
THEN HE HEARS HIS VOICE--
I'M SORRY, NATALIE. FALSE ALARM. EVERYTHING IS...FINE.
--USED WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION.
(AND FINN TAYLOR IS AFRAID.)
TO BE CONTINUED.

VENOM WAR

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE!

VENOM WAR #1

VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS #1

CHECKLIST

~~08/07/24 VENOM WAR 1~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM 36~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 1~~

08/21/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 1

08/21/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 1

08/28/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 1

09/04/24 VENOM WAR 2

09/04/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 2

09/11/24 VENOM 37

09/11/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 1

09/11/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 2

09/18/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 1

09/18/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 2

09/18/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1

09/25/24 VENOM WAR: DAREDEVIL 1

09/25/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 2

10/02/24 VENOM WAR 3

10/02/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 3

10/09/24 VENOM 38

10/09/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 2

10/16/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 2

10/16/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 3

10/23/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 3

10/23/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2

10/30/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 3

10/30/24 VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR 1

11/06/24 VENOM WAR 4

11/06/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 4

11/13/24 VENOM 39

11/13/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 3

11/13/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF 1

11/27/24 VENOM WAR 5

NEXT

THE WICKED WEB-SLINGERS WANT YOUR ***BRAINS***-- I MEAN, YOUR ***LETTERS!*** SEND YOUR NOTES TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM. BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!